

# The Contents of the Water-mans Bill into the Parliment House, May 1621. *Arguement*

## Answeres.

**H**erein is taxed the Cities government, which they desire to bee alienated from the Cittie to themselves, as men more fitter for government. But the Law of 2. and 3. of Phillip and Marie for prevention of combination thought fit, That the election should be out of the whole Company, and not restrained to any certaine number.

1. By this branch, the Cities power of Election of Assistants, is cleere taken away, which the City had before, because none came to be Assistants, untill they had bin Ouer-seers.

2. Although in this the Cities power bee not excluded, yet is it much weakned, by drawing the nomination to themselves, and tying the Court to a necessity, to approue their nomination.

The Ouer-seers wil be first serued, and they failing, then the Lord Maior and Aldermen.

3. This Acte is very preiudiciall to the great Ferry by Barge, betwixt London & Grauesend, which are alwayes steered, and for the most part rowed by Marriners and Sea-men, who are more sufficient for those Boates then water-men, and haue euer carried passengers with more safety. It would also preiudice all the Ferries vpon the Riuer of Thames, wherein are few or no Water-men employd, nor in this Act any prouision made for them, which would therefore tend to the destruction of all Ferries, Barges, and Tide-boats.

4. It is necessary, that prouision be made, that the Ordinances of the Company receiue allowance according to the Statute, 19. H. 7. or otherwise by the Lord Maior and Court of Aldermen, and Recorder of the City of London for the time being, before they be put in execution.

5. This Act would not onely take away the interest and property of the Citie of London, & the Towne of Grauesend in that great Ferry: but also of all those who haue any other Ferries vpon the Riuer of Thames. For, if the Watermen may freely carry and recary to and from all places, it would be no benefit, but an exceeding great losse to the Owners of Ferries, to maintaine Boats, sails, oares and men continually to attend vpon the same, and are tyed to entertaine all Passengers at small rates, by the Statute of 6. H. 8. and by prescription before that time, which the owner of the Ferry may not excede, but by this liberty desired, the passenger is likely to be exacted vpon, beeing left to the discretion of the Watermen, who are not heereby compellible to attend.

6. The Ouer-seers inhabiting in or neere the City of London, cannot conueniently commit Of-



In the preample of their Bill, they recite the Statute of the 2. and 3. Phillip and Marie, which authorizeth the Citie of London, to elect the Ouer-seers out of the whole number of Water-men, which they complaine of, and alledge, that the Lord Maior and Aldermen (for affection or some other by-respect) do vsually chuse such Water-men to be Rulers, which are not fit to gouerne themselves, much lesse to take vpon them the charge of so great a Company.

1 In the first Acte, they desire to haue thirty Assistants to be chosen by themselves, and those Assistants to haue as absolute power to rule and gouerne (in the absence of the Ouer-seers) as the Ouerseers themselves.

2. In the second Acte, the old Ouer-seers would choose and present eight personnes out of the thirty Assistants, of which eight persons, the City should haue power to choose foure, and foure of the ancient Rulers, should continue another yeare; which eight so chosen, shall haue power to choose foure new Assistants to supply the roomes of those foure Ouer-seers so chosen.

If the Ouer-seers fayle to present names to the Lord Maior and Aldermen, then the Lord Maior and Aldermen, shall haue authority to choose Ouer-seers of themselves: yet so, as they must be out of the 30. Assistants.

3. The third Act, prohibites all persons whatsoever, from presuming to vse the trade of a Waterman or Lighterman, vnlesse he haue serued as an Apprentise seauen yeares to a Waterman or Lighterman, vpon paine of imprisonment 3. months, and to forfeite 20. li.

4. The fourth Act, enioyneth all the Water-men (how remote soeuer they dwell from the Citie of London) to come to their Hall once euery yeare, to heare their Orders read, or else to forfeite 12. d. to be leuiy by the Ouerseers for the benefit of the Company.

5 In the fift Act, they would haue their Authority enlarged: and whereas before it was but betwixt Grauesend and Windsor, now they would haue it extend from Cliff in Kent to Reading in Barkshire. And that it might be lawfull to and for all Free Watermen rowing vpon the Riuer of Thames, to carry and recarrie his Maiesties Liege-people too and from all places betwixt Cliff and Reading without contradiction of any person or persons whatsoever.

6 Sixtly, it is enacted, That the Ouerseers shall not onely haue power to commit Offenders to prison, in any of the Compters of this City, but also in any other

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fenders to the next prison from *Cliff in Kent, or Reading in Barkshire*. It were more necessarie, that the Iustices of Peace next adioyning, should continue their power to punish Water men, being offenders, whose iudgements are nothing inferior to the Water-men.

7. Heereby the right which Owners of Ferries haue to place Masters in their owne Boates, and the power which the Lord Maior, and other Corporations haue, to displace insufficient Masters is taken away. In which Act is no provision for Sea-men and Marriners, but are restrained, except they be first allowed: and the water-men are not compellible to allow but whom they please, neither is it provided, what shall bee giuen or taken for such allowance, so that by such desired liberty, the Owners of Ferries and Marriners to be employed upon the Riuer, are like to bee subiect to the exaction of the Water-men.

8. In the third Act, none may presume to vse the Trade but Water-men: and with this, no Waterman shall haue to do with Land-men, so that the Owners of Ferries being altogether Land-men, shall be altogether barred both from Water-men, Marriners, and Landmen, to guide or rowe their Boats, whereby Westerne Barges and Boats are included: whereby allowance & disallowance desired by this Act, will draw a great charge vpon Passengers and Provision coming or brought to the City.

9. The Ouer-seers would haue power to take away any mans seruants: perhappes, against the will both of Master and Seruant: and the colour of this allowance, will be a meanes to draw charge vpon the poorer sort of the Company.

10. This Act is in nature of a presse, which the Ouer-seers would haue power at all times to execute vpon such, against whom they shall at any time conceiue malice or offence: and it is desired, that the Masters of the Trinity house may be called to the Act.

prison in the Counties of *Kent, Essex, Surrey, Middlesex, and Barkshire*, which may be nearest to the place where the Offenders shall dwell.

7. By the seuenth Act, no person may take vpon him the charge and guidance of any Barge, Tilt-boate, or Lightersman, vnlesse he be approoued and allowed by the Ouer-seers and 6. of the Assistants, vpon paine to forfeite fiue pound to the Ouer-seers, to the vse of the Company. And if any person so allowed, become disordred and vnfit, then they shall haue power to disallow him: and if he continue his charge, and refuse to be disallowed, then to forfeite forty shillings to the vse aforesaid.

8. That no Waterman vsing any Tide-boat, Barge, Tiltboat, Lightersman, or Wherry, shall become Partner, or haue any thing to doe concerning the Trade of a Waterman with any Landman, or with any other but a Waterman, vnlesse he be allowed so to do by the Ouerseers and Assistants, vpon paine to forfeite 20.s. to the vse aforesaide.

9. No person vsing the Trade of a Waterman, shall take into his seruice, the Seruant or Apprentise of any other Waterman, but by the Order and Allowance of the Ouerseers and Assistants, vpon paine to forfeit v. li. to the vse of the Company.

10. That no Master or owner of any Ship or Vessel belonging to the Riuer of *Thames* of the burthen of 100. Tunnes or more, may make any voyage to Sea, except they take with them for euery 100. Tuns their Ship is of burthen, one Watermans seruant: for which seruant or seruants, they must repaire to the place where the Watermen vse to assemble, and demand of them, which seruant or seruants, together with their conditions and rates, shall bee appointed by the Ouer-seers. And euery Master or Owner which shall offend herein, shall forfeite 40.s. to the vse of the Company.